

The Birthplace Banner.

1920-2020 WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL EDITION

VOL. X.—No 1.

ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS, JANUARY 2020

FREE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY **200**th SUSAN B. ANTHONY!

2020 Centennial Events

Check out the back page of this Birthplace Banner for a full listing of SBABM sponsored events, descriptions, location, and dates.

February 15, 2020

ASCCC's Red & Black Gala Fundraiser
Berkshire Hills Country Club

April 4, 2020

Smithsonian Magazine Museum Day

February 16, 2020

Susan's 200th Birthday!
SBABM & the Adams Historical Society
Annual SBA Birthday Celebration

June 27, 2020

Historical Family Farm Day
Games, activities and costumes from when
Susan B. Anthony was a child
Hoellerich's Farm

March 8, 2020

Marching with Mother Exhibit Opening
with Dr. Suzanne Schnittman, and reception

June 18 & 19, 2020

Herstory Conference
Adams, Mass.

March 28, 2020

Michèle LaRue Performs "Someone Must
Wash The Dishes" an Anti-Suffrage Satire.
Ventfort Hall

August 21-23, 2020

ASCCC Suffrage Centennial Festival
Events for the whole family Friday through
Monday, including street fair, parade, food,
and live music. Downtown Adams

April 1, 2020

The Merritt of Bicycles
Williamstown Public Library

For more events visits: www.sbabm.org
or www.celebratesuffrage.org



The 200-year legacy of American heroine Susan B. Anthony will be celebrated at Adams Free Library Memorial Hall. Scheduled events include:

- A reenactment of the presentation of yellow roses by local children for Anthony's 80th birthday celebration in 1900, presented via video submissions from children in the museum community
- Unveiling of the museum's new "Organize, Agitate, Educate" Scholarship for college-bound Berkshire County High Schoolers and recognition of the 2020 "Organize, Agitate, Educate" Scholarship recipient
- Recognition of Anthony Family Descendants present at the event
- Musical performances by Deb Burns as well as Anthony family descendent Eric and Pat Anthony. Sing-along to suffrage-era songs
- An honoring of the sesquicentennial of the 15th Amendment to the United States Constitution giving the right to vote to enslaved persons, and recognize women of color and working-class women whose work and words were often overshadowed by privileged white suffragists
- Celebratory cake and birthday toast reception

February 16, 2020 | 3:00PM
Adams Free Library Memorial Hall
Free & Open to the Public

Marching with Mother

When contemplating important historical artifacts, the mundane objects of everyday life can easily be dismissed as mere afterthoughts. It may surprise many to consider that a simple pair of shoes provides great insight into the experiences and conditions of important social movements.

On March 8, the Birthplace Museum will unveil its "Marching with Mother" exhibit featuring children's shoes from the 19th - early 20th centuries. **Suzanne Schnittman**, Ph.D., is the featured speaker for the occasion.

Dr. Schnittman taught history with an emphasis on Women's Studies at Hobart William Smith College and in the State University of New York (SUNY) system. Her inclusive presentations have played a leading role in the interfaith dialogue movement. Her most recent publication is *Provocative Mothers and Their Precocious Daughters: 19th Century Women's Rights Leaders*.

This new exhibit will allow visitors to step into history and learn



about the children who participated in suffrage demonstrations alongside their mothers, aunts, and grandmothers leading up to the ratification of the 19th amendment.

One may—quite literally—follow in the footsteps of the generations who walked before to more deeply understand their journey in the fight for a more equitable future

March 8, 2020 | 3:00 PM
SBABM, 67 East Road, Free Event



Full “STEAM” Ahead!

The SBABM now provides field trip curriculum to instruct children grades 2-6 about the intersection of history and science.

Our three core exercises are:

1. Observation and building activity regarding Federal Style architecture and Post-and-Beam construction,
2. A science vocabulary acrostic writing activity, and
3. A STEM-themed scavenger hunt. These activities, easily catered to different grade levels, can be completed independently or as a curriculum unit.

Goals and outcomes: After visiting the SBABM, students will gain a more concrete understanding that everything we use in our everyday lives relates in some way to **STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics, or Applied Mathematics.)**

We often think of technology and science as “new” areas of education and work and equate them with futuristic discoveries, and yet even the sites we visit on historical field trips were built using these disciplines.

By inviting students to observe and talk about technological and scientific developments in a history museum setting, we encourage kids to make new connections between academic disciplines. They learn to recognize how everyday objects in their lives developed from simpler, low-tech devices that Susan B. Anthony may have used as a child.

During the architecture activity children are asked to walk around the museum grounds to observe the shape and design elements of the house and write their findings. We introduce vocabulary and architectural concepts such as symmetry. Students are then invited to build their own houses out of blocks, working in teams to recreate the post-and-beam bones of Susan B. Anthony’s childhood home.

Throughout the STEAM-themed scavenger hunt the students and instructors alike are often surprised by how many items in our collection relate to technology and science. Students are asked to walk through the museum to locate nine different

objects, noting what they are called and how they fit into the STEM theme. These objects lead to conversations about light refraction, fabric production, hydroelectricity, and the first woman doctors in the country.

At the start of the acrostic activity students receive a worksheet with the word “EXPERIMENT” written down the left margin. They are asked to think of one science-related word for each letter in the word “experiment.” We talk about the scientific method, different branches of science, and what kinds of teamwork and creativity are required to make advances in STEAM fields.



Tackling Tough Topics



History can be ugly. History can be uncomfortable. History can make us sad, resentful, guilty, and ashamed.

Pictured here is part of the Museum collection: a racist bisque caricatured figurine of a Black woman produced by a German company at the turn of the 20th century.

The figurine has bulging eyes, gaping mouth, and bare feet. It is clad in a corset and pantaloons, holding a “Votes for women” sign in one hand and a wooden club in the other. A few similar figurines have been featured on auction sites, but with little information about who designed or commissioned this clearly racist representation.

The statuette mocks the Suffrage Movement as a whole while targeting Black women with common racist, sexist, dehumanizing stereotypes of the 18th - 20th centuries. It prompts dialogue about the perceived tiers of personhood and resentment fuelled by the 15th Amendment.

The statuette is also helpful because people often deny that suffragists like Susan B. Anthony or Elizabeth Cady Stanton were racist. These women are heroes. We don’t like to admit our heroes’ flaws. We make excuses.

Only through honest conversation with truly open minds can a damaged society repair past wrongs, build better empathy, and create a more compassionate future.

The statuette also exposes the racist tendencies of celebrated suffragists like Susan B. Anthony or Elizabeth Cady Stanton, causing discomfort to modern sensibilities. The veil of ignorance slips and the heroes of equality are tarnished. It is a helpful reminder that even the greatest heroes are flawed and often deeply so.

How does this image make you feel?

Join the conversation on Facebook @SusanBAnthonyBirthplaceMuseum

The Birthplace Banner.

A publication of news and note from the Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum

Editor
Lynn M. Lewandowski

Copy Editor
Jessica Brennan

Contributors
Lynn Lewandowski
Cassandra Peltier

Story Ideas/Questions/Comments
Lynn@susanbathonybirthplace.org

SUSAN B. ANTHONY
BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM
67 East Road, PO Box 244
Adams, MA 01220
413.743.7121

www.susanbathonybirthplace.org

The Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation, dedicated to preserving the birthplace and raising public awareness of the wide-ranging legacy of the great social reformer, Susan B. Anthony, who was a pioneering feminist and suffragist as well as a noteworthy figure in the abolitionist, opposition to Restellism (opposition to abortion), and temperance movements of the 19th century.

As part of its mission, the Museum highlights the familial and regional influences which shaped Ms. Anthony's early life, by displaying the textiles and furnishings of that period, as well as the literature and other memorabilia associated with her later career.

THE SUSAN B. ANTHONY BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM is a proud affiliate of the following organizations:



HerStory Conference

JULY 18 & 19, 2020 ↻ ADAMS, MA



Erika Bachiochi is a legal scholar specializing in Equal Protection jurisprudence, feminist legal theory, and sexual ethics.

A 2018 Research Fellow at the Abigail Adams Institute in Cambridge and Visiting Scholar at Harvard Law School, Bachiochi speaks widely on abortion, sexual economics, the impact of the new sexual norms on women and the poor, care ethics, and authentic reproductive justice.



Colleen Spelley has retired from her 30-year teaching career and helped found the Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum.

Spelley established a project to restore dignity to institutionalized women in history. She advocated for Willard Asylum patients who were buried without recognition of their names and erected memorials at Willard and Holy Cross Cemeteries in Ovid, NY.



Gwendolyn Quezaire-Presutti's portrayal of historical women introduces untapped history, drawing on a wide array of primary historical resources.

For the past 20 years Quezaire-Presutti has engaged audiences with performances giving voice to real life accounts, struggles, self-determination and triumphs of women she portrays.



A. Cheree Carlson has been a professor in the College of Integrative Sciences and Arts at Arizona State University since 2009. She is also an affiliate member of the women's studies program.

Her research areas include rhetoric of gender, feminism, and forensic oratory. She authored *Crimes of Womanhood: Defining Femininity in a Court of Law* in 2009.



Lori Harrison-Kahan, Associate Professor of the Practice in English at Boston College, is editor of *The Superwoman and Other Writings* by Miriam Michelson and author of *The White Negress: Literature, Minstrelsy, and the Black-Jewish Imaginary*.

She is on the editorial board of the Jewish Women's Archive's *Shalvi/Hyman Encyclopedia of Jewish Women*.



Rachel MacNair, Ph.D. is a sociologist, peace psychologist, and activist specializing in non-violence activism.

She is a Quaker, which influences her anti-violence work and gives insight into Susan B. Anthony's social and moral foundation for activism including early suffragists' perspective that abortion is the result of male domination.

On July 18 & 19 (honoring the dates of the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention) we will host a **HerStory Conference** covering the topics of racism in the suffrage movement, activism from the perspective of Quakers, experiences of women incarcerated in the Willard Asylum, voluntary motherhood and restellism in the 19th century, and dress reform as an avenue for women's autonomy.

Suffrage balladeer **Steve Adams** will perform during the program. **Gwendolyn Quezaire-Presutti** will present a first-person costumed presentation in character as **Madam CJ Walker**.



Janet Farrell Brodie, professor and chair of history at Claremont Graduate University, authored *Contraception and Abortion in Nineteenth Century America*.

"One of Brodie's many achievements is to denaturalize our sense of reproductive control by setting it firmly in historical context."
- Women's Review of Books



Monica Klem, is a historian, writer, and researcher, her most recent work focusing on early women's rights advocates' responses to the perceived increase in abortion in the U.S. in the years following the Civil War.

Klem has written and edited many publications including *National Affairs*, *University Review*, and *Philanthropy Roundtable* where Klem wrote historical biographical vignettes about early women.



Stewart Burns, Professor and chair of Ethical & Creative Leadership; Martin Luther King Jr Studies, PhD Program Union Institute & University, scholar of civil rights and women's rights reforms.

Burns will serve as panelist and as moderator during the HerStory Conference.



Steve Adams performs suffrage ballads he authored to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment.

Steve is a folk singer and student of suffrage history. He performs a program of original music, dialogue and readings celebrating the work of Susan B Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Fredrick Douglass and other champions of women's suffrage.

History Projects Engage Students

The Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum left a lasting impression on two sixth graders from Salisbury Central School in Connecticut.

In January 2019, Tess and Ellie participated in an after-school workshop led by their Social Studies teacher, members of the Salisbury Association Historical Society, and SOAR – a community funded and directed organization that provides student enrichment programs.

"I really liked seeing the whole exhibit, and I really learned a lot from it. The tour guides were super nice. It was so interesting to see the beautiful replica of Susan B's dress. The experience was really great, and we learned a lot from it. We would recommend other people come here because it helped our project so much."

—Ellie, on the SBABM

The two students decided to enter the Torrington Regional Contest, the 2019 contest theme being "Triumph and Tragedy." In order to be ready by the March submission deadline they had to work quickly and steadily.

Their mother, Lia Wolgemuth, chronicled the project by photographing the young historians throughout the process.

"I learned a lot about Susan B. Anthony's life through the tour. The staff was kind and knew a lot about Susan B. Anthony. The experience of going to the museum helped us a lot with our History Day Project and was amazing!"

—Tess, on the SBABM

Tess and Ellie's project "Women's Rights – How Two Women Shaped the Movement" focused on Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton and used information from their tour of the Birthplace Museum in addition to books and other resources.

The young women creatively fashioned a voting booth from a repurposed refrigerator box and the result is both eye-catching and informative.

At the Torrington Regional Contest, Ellie and Tess showcased their project to attendees and met guest presenter

Conn. Congresswomen Jahana Hayes, a thrill for both students."

Both students intend to participate in the 2020 Torrington Regional Contest.

Editor's note: We have a feeling that the 2020 Suffrage Centennial would make an excellent topic for History projects.



The students submitted their research project, "Women's Rights-How Two Women Shaped the Movement," to the 2019 Torrington Contest in Connecticut.



Suffrage Valentine's Cards



Show your devotion, and cheeky sense of humor, with the **Love & Leap Year Collection** of Suffrage Era Notecards.

This collection includes classic images that would inspire even the most stoic anti-suffragist while highlighting the **2020 Leap-Year**. International folklore maintains that Leap -Year is the only acceptable day in which a female could propose marriage to a man.

Buy today!
www.SBABM.org

SBABM ♥'s Volunteers

Not a day goes by that we aren't thankful for our volunteers, and **Leah Couture** is one of the Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museums most dedicated.

Leah comes to us through the **Berkshire Family & Individuals Resource Center (BFAIR)** in North Adams, Massachusetts. Leah, along with her assistants Missy and Jill, welcomes visitors at the Admissions counter and staffs the gift shop, working six hours a week in the summer and three hours a week in the winter.

We are grateful to Leah for her continued support of the Birthplace — it is thanks to dedicated volunteers like Leah that we are able to open our doors to visitors all year round.

Leah answered a few questions so we could get to know her better.

What is your favorite spot in the museum? *"The Gift Shop — and I like the flowers in the garden."*

How did you hear about the Birthplace Museum? *"BFAIR"*

What is your favorite type of music? *"Country Music — I know most of the new songs and I like singing along."*

What is your favorite part of volunteering at the SBABM? *"Meeting new people, making crafts, art and pictures, and seeing the stuff in the museum and gift shop."*

Why do you think Susan and her family are relevant today? *"Family is an important part of history. I like the stories in the museum about kids."*

Do you have any other hobbies or activities that you like to do? *"I volunteer at the church filling salt and peppers."*



Anthony's Revolution: At Your Fingertips

Yes, literally. It is as easy as moving a cursor and typing in the subject matter or the date of the publication. From the first edition in January of 1868 to the final issue in 1872, the writings in the Museum's state-of-the-art kiosk puts visitors in the mindset of a mid-19th century woman with something to say and the means to publish those opinions."

Susan would be shocked at the smooth-lined upright contraption on the first floor of the humble farmhouse on East Road where she was born. Scholars, students, and researchers no longer need to guess at early suffragists' opinion about social issues of the day.

The educational kiosk provides actual copies and primary sources of *The Revolution*, the newspaper started, owned, and published by Susan B. Anthony. It serves as a digital archive of all the issues of *The Revolution*, from 1868 through 1872.

Additionally, the kiosk covers the newspaper's history and chronicles its notable editors. As the owner and publisher, Anthony controlled the newspaper's content but left her editors to write and select articles.

The colorful Parker Pillsbury, an ardent abolitionist dubbed "Mrs. Pillsbury," was fully entrenched in the paper's mission. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, one of the most radical of the suffragists, never pulled a punch in her expressions of the activist views of the paper and she wrote her commentaries and views with equal fervor.

The value of intellectual honesty
The Birthplace Museum acquired original copies of *The Revolution* more than ten years ago and they serve as the inspiration behind a number of its exhibits and displays. Scholarship, intellectual honesty, and transparency are hallmarks of accurate interpretation of suffrage sentiments. Therefore, the digital kiosk provides primary source material without the

inclusion of interpretive narrative which can tarnish an otherwise historical voice. In addition, viewers are not subjected to "out-of-context" quotes or statements. These can now be read within the context of surrounding narrative, gaining a more complete understanding of suffrage sentiments.

"For accurate historical interpretation, nothing can replace the written word, especially the written word in context," says SBABM Board of Directors member **Colleen Spelley**, who assisted in reading and indexing *The Revolution* for the kiosk. Spelley is an authority on mental health institutionalization of women in the 19th century. She cautions against "revisionist history" which gives a contemporary spin and commonly integrates subjective interpretation. "If the value of learning history is to help shape the future, then it is imperative that the historical record is presented in its most objective form."

Are some themes discussed more than others in *The Revolution*?

Themes are separated in two main categories: "Frequently discussed" and "Less Frequently discussed."

Frequently discussed themes appear in *The Revolution* over 65 times while less frequently discussed themes appear fewer than 65 times.



A young visitor takes a moment to read about Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

Article is continued on page 7.

Pedal to the Mettle: SBA on Bicycles

From the late 19th through early 20th centuries, the bicycle was a symbol of women's increasing independence and a growing voice in public political and social spheres.

Most suffragists, including Susan B. Anthony, supported women's use of bicycles as an inexpensive and liberating mode of transportation. For women, the bike increased the ability to participate in business, politics, and higher education—not to mention the health benefits of exercise, fresh air, and increased physical strength and stamina!

In 1896, world-renowned pioneering female journalist Nellie Bly sat down with Susan B. Anthony to ask about Susan's career and her opinions on a variety of social and political topics. Bly asked Anthony's opinion of the bicycle and penned the response as follows:

"Let me tell you what I think of bicycling," Miss Anthony said, leaning forward and laying a slender hand on my arm. "I think it has done more to emancipate women than anything else in the world.

I stand and rejoice every time I see a woman ride by on a wheel. It gives woman a feeling of freedom and self-reliance. It makes her feel as if she were independent. The moment she takes her seat she knows she can't get into harm unless she gets off her bicycle, and away she goes, the picture of free, untrammled womanhood."

"And bloomers?" I suggested, quietly.

"Are the proper thing for wheeling," added Miss Anthony promptly. "It is as I have said—dress to suit the occasion. A woman doesn't want skirts and flimsy lace to catch in the wheel. Safety, as well as modesty, demands bloomers or extremely short skirts. You know women only wear foolish articles of dress to please men's eyes anyway."

Champion Of Her Sex: Miss Susan B. Anthony, The New York World, Feb. 2, 1896.

In May 2020, the Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum will host the first annual **"Cruisin' with Susan"**

WE DEPEND ON YOUR SUPPORT.

In 2006, Birthplace Museum founders took on the task of restoring the house, which had been vacant for 11 years and privately owned. The Birthplace Museum opened in the winter of 2010.

This rural, Federal-style home, now listed in the National Register of Historic Places, contains a portrait gallery, legacy room, and birthing room depicting family and work life in the early 1800's—as well as authentic period pieces, ephemera, and a detailed timeline.

Your membership is important to us.

A listing of membership benefits can be found on the [Memberships/Donations section of our website.](#)

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP \$25
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP \$50
SUSTAINER MEMBERSHIP \$125

All memberships can be purchased at the museum or on-line at:

WWW.SUSANBANTHONYBIRTHPLACE.ORG



Suffrage-era postcards often communicated the importance of bicycling, promoting independence and exercise. Detractors took the opportunity to share their own "spin" on the subject —citing the decline of home life and control of wives.

Postcard collection provided by Carol Crossed.



bicycle festival featuring a bike repair workshop, bike swap for families with growing kids, trail rides along the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail, and crafts and lawn games for the whole family! It is hosted in conjunction with the **Adams Suffrage Centennial Celebration Committee, Village Bike Rentals, the Town of Adams, and The Old Stone Mill Center: Zero Waste Maker Space.**

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for more details!

Internships in 2020 will be offered year-round

Internship Applications now being accepted at:
www.SBABM.org

SBABM Out & About

Adams Council on
Aging's Livewell Expo



64th Annual Fall
Foliage Parade



NonProfit Center of the
Berkshires' and Age Friendly
Berkshires' "Don't Just Stand
There - Volunteer!" fair in
Great Barrington



Acclaimed Performer Returns to Adams

On July 18 & 19, on the 172nd anniversary of the 1848 Seneca Falls Women's Rights Convention, **Gwendolyn Quezaire-Presutti** will return to Adams for the Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum's "Herstory Conference." As both a panelist in our discussion about racism in the U.S. Women's Suffrage Movement and as a performer, she will present her program on **Madam C.J. Walker**—a self-made millionaire businesswoman who lived from 1867-1919 and actively campaigned against racial violence.

"I Promoted Myself" explains Madam C.J. Walker's entrepreneurial enterprises, philanthropic work, and activism. Gwendolyn becomes Madam C.J. Walker, reliving her true "rags to riches" story and recounting her mobilization of a network of 20,000 African American women sales agents and workers in factories and offices. These sales agents earned between \$5 and \$15 a day while unskilled white laborers were earning \$11 a week.

Madam C.J. Walker's death garnered international attention, and she

was hailed as "the wealthiest Negro woman in the United States, if not the entire world." More than a history lesson, Gwendolyn Quezaire-Presutti's presentation of Madam C.J. Walker's life story offers inspiration to women—regardless of race—to pursue success against all odds.

Gwendolyn says of her work: "I have always had a strong curiosity for History, learning about people who lived in the past and why the history books in school never satisfied my curiosity," Gwendolyn declares. "I had so many unanswered questions. However a door was open while under tutelage with Professor Lloyd Barbee at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. The door opened and untapped American History that was absent from my school history books."

For more information about this and other programs Gwendolyn offers, visit her website:

www.quezaire-presutti.com



Madam C.J. Walker pictured here in 1914.



Quezaire-Presutti returns to Adams, Mass.

Teamwork Makes the Museum Dream Work!

Each November, the **New England Museum Association** (NEMA) holds its annual conference gathering museum professionals, artists, educators, performers, and vendors from across the region. Participants collaborate in thought leadership and professional development while exploring the rich variety of museums in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.



The SBABM contingent at the 2019 NEMA Conference in Burlington, VT.



The 2019 conference was held in Burlington, VT, just a few miles from **Echo Aquarium** on Lake Champlain. Those in attendance had the chance to visit local sites such as **Rokeby Museum** or the **Shelburne Museum**. Educators who are setting precedence for interactive digital learning experiences through video software collaborate with local archaeologists to create presentations that allow students to "visit" museums and archaeological sites from their own classrooms.

This year, Executive Director **Cassandra Peltier** was joined by board members **Lynn Lewandowski** and **Kelly Vincent-Brunacini** to deepen their collective understanding of the considerations and best practices for running a small house museum. "We learned a lot about the nuances of museum management, and now feel more ready to work directly in growing the SBABM, enriching visitor experiences and public outreach."

Cassandra was thrilled to have the support of board members during the three-day conference, especially as this was her first time presenting

at NEMA. Cassandra co-presented a workshop on collaboration between small museums which was based on her work with **Michelle Abrams** of the Veterans Association of the First Corps of Cadets and Museum in Boston, Mass. She also presented as part of a panel about commemorating the Women's Suffrage Centennial at New England museums. The latter was presented with **Cathy Saunders** of the New Bedford Whaling Museum and Lighting the Way project, and **Rachel Onuff** of the Vermont State Archives and Vermont Suffrage Centennial Alliance.



SBABM Executive Director Cassandra Peltier with co-presenter Michelle Abrams of the Veterans Association of the First Corps of Cadets and Museum in Boston, Mass.

Here Kitty-Kitty...

Say hello to the Suffrage Cat—and important yet almost unknown symbol of the U.S. Women's Suffrage Movement!



For years, anti-suffrage art included cats because felines were viewed as the embodiment of feminine qualities like passivity and domesticity in 1916. However, when two touring suffragists adopted a cat, they named him Saxon and he became the movement's mascot. Suffragists reclaimed cats in their pro-suffrage imagery not just with photos of the intrepid traveling kitten Saxon, but also in cartoons

showing the poor women who were forced to remain home with the children and cats, and for whom the active travelling suffragists were willing to fight.

The National Park Service has launched a Suffrage Cat activity to help commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment's passing this year.

We have Suffrage Cat activity sheets here at The Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum—stop by to color your own Suffrage cat, or visit www.nps.gov/articles/suffrage-cat.htm Either way, be sure to chronicle your cat's adventures on social media.



Suffrage Cat coloring provided by SBABM visitor. Postcard collection provided by Carol Crossed.

New Tech, New Year

Visitors get updated devices & connectivity

With the rapid progression of technology in the digital age, it seems that the gadgets and devices of this morning belong in a museum by nightfall. Just as the beloved suffragists were women ahead of their time, the SBABM is a step ahead in keeping vital historical information readily accessible to the modern consumer.

Thanks to a generous donation, the museum possesses brand new tablets that allow visitors to easily enjoy an audio tour of exhibits.

The tour, narrated by star of stage and screen Margaret Colin, is available through izi.travel, a free location-based app compatible with any Android or Apple device.

Users of the izi app can curate their own personal museum tour. The audio files can be played, paused, or skipped, and the option to simply read the transcripts is available while enjoying the exhibits throughout the Birthplace.



The Birthplace Museum's audio tour begins with an overview of the homestead and grounds. It progresses through the house's various permanent exhibits explaining Susan's family history, life in Berkshire County during the early 1800s, and the local Quaker community.

The audio tour also features "bonus" tracks of actors reading essays by Frederick Douglass, Lucy Stone, mill girls, and other historical figures relevant to Susan B. Anthony's life and career.

**THE REVOLUTION:
150 YEARS AGO TODAY**

Visit Facebook for our weekly posts from
The Revolution each Wednesday.
@SusanBAnthonyBirthplaceMuseum

Anthony's Revolution cont.

For instance, Animal Concerns, which consists of animal mistreatment and vegetarianism, is one of the less frequent themes and seven sources have been provided. Other "Less Frequent" themes are fitness and women-friendly religion. To these the reader is directed to the exact page and paragraph of that particular digital copy of *The Revolution*.

Each of the themes in the frequently discussed section have 9-11 supporting sources. For example, Suffrage would be considered a "Frequently discussed" topic and includes 11 supporting source materials.

While the kiosk invites the visitor to locate hundreds of other letters, articles, and editorials about voting rights for women in *The Revolution*, these 11 sources have been provided as a starting point for your research. Some frequently discussed topics are listed below.

Dress Reform: The suffragists were passionate about dress reform. Freedom from restrictive dress afforded women the opportunity for exer-

cise, especially with the popularity of bicycling and other leisure activities. A more practical application would be the reduction of dangerous working conditions, caused by excessive material and restrictive design.

Labor and Class: Issues of poverty and working conditions were unearthed in a wider conversation of labor and class. As journalists and activists, the editors took frequent aim at these underlying conditions.



Opposition to Restellism: "Restellism" is a Victorian-era term, (used interchangeably with "infanticide," "child-murder") for the much discussed and highly reviled abortionist Madame Restell. Along with other journals and newspapers of the time, *The Revolution* did not fear to condemn abortion with unequivocal moral aplomb.

Marriage Reform: *The Revolution* often responded cheekily to other newspaper's interpretation of their purpose, in this case, to make women equal partners in the marital contract.

Our gratitude goes to **Jessica Brennan**, **Colleen Spelcey**, and **Kelly**

Vincent-Brunacini, with special thanks to **Lynn Lewandowski** for design of the digital programming. Normal usage of the kiosk is included in the Museum's admission. If longer blocks of research time are needed, patrons can contact the Museum office for additional options.

From *The Revolution*: In their own words

PURPOSE OF "THE REVOLUTION."—The Ball more Sun said last week, "The Revolution" is spicier than ever, but it added: "The Revolution" evidently purposes to "remedy" the actual "dross" of women, to have husbands and families and homes of their own. The Sun shouldn't shine that way. It isn't decent moonshine. We do purpose and hope, by making women independent, to remedy the necessity which men and custom have made of compelling her into marriage for the sake of a hour, of which after all marriage is no guarantee and much less of happiness.

Marriage Reform: Purpose of The Revolution; 13 Aug 1868; p. 92. *The Revolution*

QUACKS AND THEIR DRUGS AND DEEDS.—Ohio has a law levelled directly against that infamous class who sell or distribute drugs and nostrums to prevent conception or procure abortion. The act is very explicit in its provisions, and if enforced cannot fail to lessen the disgrace we are subjected to now by the number of beings who make a living by the slaughter of their race. But the law fails in not including the newspapers that advertise them.

Opposition to Restellism: Quacks and Their Drugs and Deeds; 19 Nov 1868; p. 315. *The Revolution*

Good, IF TRUE.—It begins to be predicted as well as prayed for that fashion now is going to do what common sense has failed to accomplish—namely, to cut off the long trains from the female costume. This will be in the interest of common sense and cleanliness, as well as economy, but it will still be a triumph of fashion, while the trains cut from the dresses of fashionable women will suffice to decently clothe an equal number of poor creatures who are naked or in rags.

Dress Reform, Good If True; 18 June 1868; p. 382. *The Revolution*

distilling from nature, perspective, and the fundamental principles of the art. This unfortunate widow took up dressmaking, in which, never having learned the trade, she could not hold a second-rate position. Of course, she could not command the highest pay for her labor. Finding she could earn more by going out to day's work, she left her three little children at home to take care of themselves, while she went out to earn the extra half dollar which they must have to be comfortable. Condemned in close rooms, breathing with only the upper half of the lungs, as she toiled over the needle day after day, for six years; starchy about her children, who, in her constant absence from home, could but grow up in habits of idleness and aimlessness—all these wrought upon a constitution of more than ordinary strength and vigor, and consequently added another to his fearful list of victims.

Labor and Class: Life and Death by Needle; 9 April 1868, p. 215. *The Revolution*

2020 CENTENNIAL EVENTS

February 15 - 5:30-8:00 PM
ASCCC's Red & Black Gala
 Fundraiser at Berkshire Hills Country Club, Tickets \$60. Live music, buffet dinner, SBA birthday cake, and auction.

February 16 - 3:00 PM
Susan B.'s 200th Birthday
 The Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum & the Adams Historical Society invite you to the 200th Birthday Celebration of Susan B. Anthony!

March 8 - 3:00 PM
Marching with Mother
 Opening Reception for "Marching with Mother" exhibit featuring speaker Dr. Suzanne Schnittman.

March 28 - 3:30PM
Anti-Suffrage Satire
 Michèle LaRue Performs "Someone Must Wash The Dishes" an Anti-Suffrage Satire at Ventfort Hall Mansion and Gilded Age Museum. Presented in cooperation with the SBABM as part

of Ventfort Hall's Tea and Talk series. Tickets available through Ventfort Hall.

April 1 - 6:00 - 7:00 PM
The "Merritt" of Bicycles
 Cassandra Peltier and Michelle Abrams present "The Merritt of Bicycles" at the Williamstown David & Joyce Milne. Public Library. Free & open to all ages. Presentation followed by Q&A.

April 4 - All Day
Smithsonian Magazine Museum Day
 #EarthOptimism

May 11th through May 17th
International museum-week #museumweek2020 7 days, 7 themes, 7 hashtags. "The first worldwide cultural event on social networks" Get in on the action - visit museums and share your experience following the calendar on www.museum-week.org

June 27
Historical Family Farm Day
 Games, activities and costumes from when Susan B. Anthony was a child. "Look How Far We've Come," a discussion of women's rights in the 19th and early 20th century from Laura Ingalls Wilder's point of view, will be presented by historian and performer Melanie Stringer.

Seeking local artisans to give demonstrations of traditional crafts such as textile work, wood-working, and leather crafting. Music and refreshments will be available.

July 18th & 19th
"Herstory" Conference
 The SBABM will host a HerStory Conference covering the topics of racism in the suffrage movement, activism from the perspective of Quakers, experiences of women incarcerated in the Willard Asylum, voluntary motherhood, and restellism in the 19th century.

Also dress reform will be discussed as an avenue for women's autonomy.

August 21st through 23rd
ASCCC Suffrage Centennial Festival
 Friday: Musical performances in evening to kick off celebratory weekend.
 Saturday: Street fair with food and performers.
 Sunday: Hometown parade and statue unveiling.
 For more information or to get in touch with the committee, visit: www.celebratesusanbanthony.org

Events are updated weekly. Please visit: www.celebratesuffrage.org



IN GRATITUDE *A thank you to our donors*

The Birthplace Museum couldn't offer our quality programming, or maintain this historic site, without donor generosity and support.

We ask you to take a moment to make a tax-deductible donation, become an event sponsor or make an in-kind donation!

The Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum would like to thank the following individuals & businesses for their generosity of time, talent, goods, and/or services:



- Hancock Shaker Village
- Bella Skye Gifts
- Lickety Split at Mass MoCA
- Spring Street Market and Café
- Amy's Cottage in Williamstown
- Carr Hardware in North Adams
- Where'd You Get That?!

Individuals

- Mac and Terry Bellner
- Mark Berman
- Barb Bessette
- Lynda Bianchi
- Lucy Anthony Czaja
- Pam and Ed St. John
- Jim Loughman
- Jean and Kevin Parker
- Jessica and Tim Shanahan
- Martha Von Schilgen
- Rita Watson
- Mary Whitman



Interested in becoming a museum sponsor?
 Contact our office at:
info@susanbanthonybirthplace.org

VINTAGE TWEETS: Suffrage Era Postcards...on tour.

Vintage Tweets: Suffrage Era Postcards, by SBABM Board President Carol Crossed, is now available for purchase in the SBABM visitor center, online giftshop and on Amazon. Crossed owns one of the largest private collections of Suffrage-Era postcards which is currently on loan to the Birthplace Museum.

Selections from Crossed's collection will be on display, with select speaking engagements as noted below.

JANUARY, 2020

January 1
 Memorial Art Gallery
 Rochester New York,
 Collection display

January 9
 Smithsonian's US Postal Museum
 web site: Display and Interview

January 14
 Rochester Women's City Club

FEBRUARY, 2020

February 4
 Pittsford, New York, Collection display



February 24
 Pittsford Fisher Auditorium,
 Talk & Presentation

MARCH, 2020
March 4
 Women's Interfaith Coalition,
 Talk & Presentation

March 21
 Rundel Memorial Library,
 Lunch program

Spring, 2020
 Elizabeth Cady Stanton Luncheon,
 Seneca Falls Historical Society
 Philadelphia Magazine

Summer, 2020
July 13
 Cold Spring Village Living
 History Museum,
 Talk & Presentation